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UM acquires new practice organ

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UM news

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IMMEDIATELY

UM ACQUIRES NEW
PRACTICE ORGAN

doucet/jg
1/19/79
dailies

MISSOULA--

The University of Montana Department of Music has purchased a new pipe organ to be used as a practice organ by students in the department.

It's the first mechanical action organ to be built by the Schantz Organ Company of Orville, Ohio, and is a work of art in itself. The box and base are of solid oak with pipe shades of vermillion wood. Placed inside the box are five ranks, or rows, of pipes made of tin/steel alloy.

John Ellis, associate professor of music, pointed out the differences between the mechanical organ and the electrical variety:

"The mechanical organ operates without the use of electricity with the exception of the blower, which pushes the air through the pipes. In the mechanical organ the pipes are opened and closed directly from the keyboard. This is not the case with electric organs, where the keyboard operates a switch box, which in turn opens the pipes electrically. There is a marked difference in sound; with a mechanical organ the performer has a more direct and subtle control over the sound produced. He can cause (simply by the degree and length of pressure exerted on the keys) the notes produced to be no longer or shorter and call upon the organ to produce more subtle phrasing, which is not possible with the electric."

The organ has another feature which is not found in electric organs in that the five stops (the levers which control a graduated set of pipes of like kind and tonal quality) work and balance together. Also, the organ has two keyboards which can be played in conjunction.

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The organ was purchased for \$20,000 from the Schantz Co., represented by Ramsey Miller, who attained both his B.A. and master's in music from the University. Funds were supplied from the fine arts dean's budget and the Associated Students' Store Special Reserve Trust Fund.

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